

# **“Then and Now”**

*A look back during our Centennial Year at...*



## **NURSERY INSPECTION**







Washington  
State Department of  
Agriculture

# Centennial 2013

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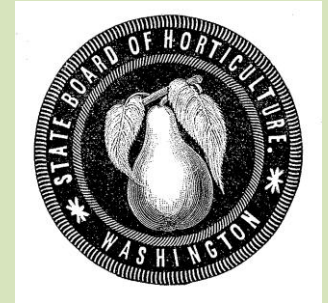




# From Whence We Came...

## 1891 – Board of Horticulture created

- May suggest regulations for inspection and disinfection of anything that may spread contagious diseases among fruit and fruit trees.
- Appoint “**Inspector of Fruit Pests**” to:
  - See that regulations are made known
  - Inspect orchards, nurseries and other places suspected of infestation
  - Direct treatment of infected materials, engage court if necessary.



## 1895 – Nursery Licensing begins ★

- Board shall make regulations for inspection, disinfection and quarantining. Penalty for violation: misdemeanor/\$25-100 fine. Each board member is “**Inspector of Fruit Pests,**” may employ deputies in each county. Add penalty provisions.
- *New provisions to prevent pest introductions*
  - Plant shippers and sellers must be licensed
  - Licensees must notify Board of all shipments at least 24 hours in advance
  - Penalty established for importing plant materials infested with San Jose Scale or Woolly Aphis. Misdemeanor, \$25-200 fine, up to 60 days in jail. Any imported plant material infested with any injurious insect shall be disinfected, cost charged to owner.





# From Whence We Came...

## 1897 – ~~Board~~ Commissioner of Horticulture

- **State:** Commissioner makes rules and regulations; handles nursery licensing; enforces laws on import and sale of fruit, fruit trees, plants or nursery stock; publishes bulletins on eradicating fruit pests and scientific discoveries of interest.
- **County:** fruit inspectors, appointed by county commissioners, inspect orchards and handle disinfection activities.

## 1907 – Office of the Commissioner of Horticulture

- Adds a clerk and deputy commissioners in King, Pierce, Spokane counties to:
  - Inspect, regulate and supervise traffic of fruit
  - ★ **Perform inspection service** in regulating nursery traffic
    - Perform other inspections and duties, \$100/month
- **Nursery license fee** established:
  - \$5 for nurserymen and tree dealers; \$2.50 for their agents and salesmen
  - License expires two years from date of issuance.
- **Stock must be labeled** with true name of variety and place where grown.





# Department of Agriculture created

## 1913 – Department of Agriculture is formed

Brings together nine areas of responsibility related to agriculture.

- Horticulture
- Dairy and Food
- Animal Health
- Oil Inspection
- Bakery Inspection
- Washington State Fair
- Feed
- Fertilizer
- Jacks and Stallions Registration

1913 – Commissioner of Horticulture  
duties transferred to WSDA



# THEN - 1913

- 10 horticultural ‘inspectors at large’
- Licensees:  
147 nurserymen &  
109 nursery ‘agents’
- License Fees: \$5 and  
\$1/ year
- Inspectors were just  
getting cars, some still on  
horseback!



1913 Ford Model T

*“...it was shown that one inspector mounted could do the work of three on foot.”*

# NOW- 2013



- 11 Plant Services Specialists
- Licensees:
  - 723 wholesale nurseries
  - 5,481 retail licensees
- License Fees: \$42, \$91, \$182  
+ 20% nursery research surcharge
- Toyota Prius hybrid electric vehicles



# Imported Fruit Tree Stock (post entry)

1913:

808,000 trees; 85% from France

2013: about 2 million trees  
from France, Netherlands



which they were shipped.

The inspection of these foreign shipments is done under the general supervision and in co-operation with the Federal Horticultural Board, Washington, D. C. To the Horticultural Division of the Department of Agriculture of this state is left the entire responsibility for the inspection at destination of importations of foreign nursery stock into the State of Washington. The Federal Horticultural Board



# *From the "First Report of the Department of Agriculture of the State of Washington to the Governor"*

40

*Department of Agriculture*

## INSPECTION OF NURSERIES AND NURSERY STOCK.

During the fall, winter and spring, comprising approximately the period October 10th to May 15th, a great amount of nursery inspection is done. Nurseries having closed packing houses practice making nursery shipments right along during winter months and the majority demand inspection and certification of each shipment. Our police powers empower inspectors to examine all nursery stock and destroy all trees not capable of disinfection. Thousands of nursery trees were condemned and destroyed by our inspectors during the past season on account of crown gall, fleshy root, hairy root, wooly aphids, borers, cankers, etc. In local nurseries we attempt as far as possible to make inspections at digging time and before trees go into "healing-in" trenches. However, it requires frequent visits to the nurseries as many of them dig only as trees are needed to fill orders.

The number of licensed nurseries is less than that for a year or two ago due to an over-production of some varieties, and to the former practice of farmers growing nursery stock as a side issue. The list is now practically simmered down to the commercial nurserymen and even for the commercial nursery the slump of two years ago in the price of nursery stock is anything but encouraging. Regardless of the fact that many small nurseries have gone out of business we must acknowledge that the nursery industry of this state is yet very important. From fifty to one hundred cars annually of nursery stock — in nurseries of the state are shipped out to wholesale and retail



"Among the very serious pests likely to be introduced are Gypsy Moth, Brown Tail Moth, Mediterranean Fruit Fly, Chestnut Blight and other important insect and fungous diseases. ..."

# THEN - Major Pest Issues

- **Pear Fire Blight:**  
The 1914 “Fire Blight” campaign in the Yakima Valley required hundreds of volunteers directed by assistant inspectors to cover 60,000 acres of trees.
- **Potato Tuber Moth:**  
Shipments of early potatoes from California burned to destroy tuber moth infestations.
- Wisteria gall fly
- Fungous canker on chestnut



*Fire Blight volunteer crews*





# Now– Major Pest Issues

- Gypsy Moth threat
- Zebra Chip
- Japanese Beetle
- Sudden Oak Death
- Invasive weed species
- ...



## Between THEN and NOW

1919 – Seed potato rules and inspection authorized

1944 – Moxee Station established to produce disease-free stone fruit nursery stock

1950 – Certification inspections: Potatoes 1,671 acres, Strawberries 335 acres

1961 – Planting-stock certification program law enacted

Tree Fruit Certification: Cherries 1962, Other stone fruit by 1966, Apples and Pears 1971-72

# Nursery Inspection of the Future



*What will it look like?*